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Media Release

UNVEILING OF MEMORIAL PLAQUE TO CANADIAN SOLDIERS IN LONDON

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On **TUESDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 1995**, at 10:00 am, a memorial plaque dedicated to the **UKRAINIAN CANADIAN SOLDIERS** who served their country with distinction overseas during the **SECOND WORLD WAR** will be unveiled at 218 Sussex Gardens, Paddington, London, England.

Over 35,000 Ukrainian Canadian men and women served with the **CANADIAN ARMED FORCES** during the Second World War. They formed a **UKRAINIAN CANADIAN SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION (UCSA)** and, in August 1943, established their own Club in the vicarage of the **ST JAMES'S PARISH CHURCH, PADDINGTON**. This building became a unique "home away from home" for thousands of Canadian soldiers of Ukrainian heritage during their tours overseas.

Before the war's end and for several years thereafter, 218 Sussex Gardens also served as the headquarters building of the **CENTRAL UKRAINIAN RELIEF BUREAU (CURB)**, an organization created to provide information and humanitarian relief to the hundreds of thousands of **UKRAINIAN POLITICAL REFUGEES, DISPLACED PERSONS AND VICTIMS OF WAR** who found themselves scattered throughout western Europe. Many thousands were aided in their **resettlement** to **CANADA**, the **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA** and to the **UNITED KINGDOM** by **CURB** and its support groups.

The plaque to be unveiled at 218 Sussex Gardens on Tuesday, 19 September, commemorates the wartime activities of these soldiers, their refugee relief and resettlement operations and the formation of the **ASSOCIATION OF UKRAINIANS IN GREAT BRITAIN**, which received its founding impetus from these Ukrainian Canadians. Donations from the Ukrainian communities of Canada and Great Britain, and the generous support of the owners of the building, have made the installation of this plaque possible.

Mrs Anne Panchuk, herself a member of UCSA and CURB, and the widow of its leading members, Gordon Richard Bohdan **PANCHUK**, will unveil the plaque after a brief ecumenical religious service in the **ST JAMES'S CHURCH**. The public is cordially invited.

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